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VOL. VI.

JANUARY, 1879.

No. 1.

THE NEW YORK
Medical Eclectic,

DEVOTED TO

REFORMED MEDICINE,
GENERAL SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

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Editors:

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D.

Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Eclectic Medical College of New York.

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JANUARY 15, 1879.

No. 1.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

QUININE IN COMMERCE AND IN PHARMACY.*

By D. C. ROBBINS.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CINCHONA ALKALOIDS.

THE subject selected for conversational discussion for this evening is *quinine*, and it may be observed that this article, in connection with cinchona bark and the various cinchona alkaloids, is a very important theme, because the consumption of the several preparations and products of cinchona has so increased of late years, that at the present time these outrank in value in commerce, and in importance in medication, any other single product.

Whenever the term drugs has been mentioned in connection with commerce in the past, it has been customary to assign to opium the first place in importance; but an examination of the

* This paper was read at the Conversational Meeting held on the 21st of November, 1878, at a meeting of the New York College of Pharmacy.

statistics of the government will show that the average import of this last drug, "opium," is but about 220,000 pounds per annum for all purposes, while it is conceded that its use as a deleterious narcotic exceeds its proper employment as a medicament; and taking the average value of this drug at about \$4.00 per pound, in bond, the result is a sum of less than one million of dollars, while the yearly consumption within the United States of sulphate of quinine alone has been computed at 800,000 ounces, which, at an average value of \$2.50 per ounce, makes a total of two millions of dollars, as opposed to less than one million for opium for all uses, or for opium as a medicament, at least four to one. Further, the cost of sulphate of quinine has so increased of late years that resort has been made to the other alkaloid salts of cinchona, and in particular cinchonidia sulphate, for which salt, hitherto but little used, the demand has enormously increased, thereby enhancing the value and the importance of cinchona bark.

But the theme of the evening is quinine, and I shall employ this occasion to treat the subject before us under two headings, as "Quinine in Commerce" and "Quinine in Pharmacy."

QUININE EXAMINED.

The question at the outset is, What is that substance which the pharmacist dispenses as quinine, under directions for examination that it shall dissolve in certain proportions in ether?

Fortunately, within a recent period there have appeared in Europe two valuable papers; the first will be found in the report of the Transactions of the London Pharmaceutical Society, for February, 1877, upon the merits of the ether test, at which time a paper was read by a member of the association, B. H. Paul, Ph.D., and the subject discussed by distinguished pharmacists like Profs. Attfield, Redwood, and others. This important publication occupies the space of eight columns in the London *Pharmaceutical Journal*, and hence can only be discussed within the limits of this evening.

Dr. Paul's paper commences as follows: "It has long been my opinion, that in using ether as a test for the purity of sulphate of quinine, there is a great liability of overlooking the

presence of a very considerable amount of cinchonidine, because this test is based upon the relative solubility of quinine and cinchonidine in ether; quinine dissolving in its own weight, while cinchonidine requires one hundred to one hundred and fifty parts of ether, as when one decigramme of cinchonidine sulphate is combined with two cubic centimetres of ether and ammonia, the presence of the insoluble alkaloid is distinct, but when the same quantity of cinchonidine salt is mixed with a large proportion of quinine, the result is different, because the presence of quinine increases the solubility of the cinchonidine in ether, and hence, he says, I have come to the conclusion, as the result of repeated experiments, that the limit within which cinchonidine cannot be detected in quinine is very much higher than is commonly supposed."

Dr. Paul's paper then proceeds to describe his test for pure quinine, which is a modification of the well-known Kerner test, as adopted in the German pharmacopœia, and tables were submitted giving the result of the examination of nine samples of quinine of different manufacture, all bearing the ether test, with variations of from less than two to ten per cent. A discussion followed which involved an examination of the accuracy of Dr. Paul's test for pure quinine, and the conclusion was arrived at that to insist upon an entire separation of the other alkaloids of cinchona from quinine, was unwise if not impossible, as the price of quinine would be *enormously enhanced*, without adding to the therapeutical value of this agent, or its value might be lessened, as it is a well known fact that when a salt of much solubility is combined with one of less, the solubility of the latter is increased; quinine requiring for solution about seven hundred and fifty parts of water, while cinchonidine is soluble in nearly one hundred.

This paper of Dr. Paul's, while it is inconclusive, is a very valuable one, because it tends to place the ether test in proper estimation; and this test is so easily applied that we cannot afford to dispense with it at present, because good approximate tests of this sort can hardly be undervalued.

The ether test remains as our best practical test for the estimation of bleached and unbleached sulphate of quinine, both of

which should completely dissolve in accordance with the directions of the pharmacopœia.

The second paper alluded to is by O. Hesse, of Stuttgart, of well-known celebrity as a quinologist and manufacturer of quinine, of the firm of Jobst & Co.

This paper was translated, condensed, and published in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, for June, 1878, and it can only be described as an exhaustive and scientific examination of the alkaloids of cinchona bark, which are placed at twenty-five in number, either abstract alkaloids or alkaloidal variations, as the result of conditional treatment.

Any criticism of a paper of this sort, outside of a company of professional quinologists, is out of place, because of the long experience and attainments of the author. But it may be said that this paper, in connection with Dr. Paul's examination, as a pharmacist of the quinines of commerce, fully shows the complications attending any critical examination of the salt of the cinchona alkaloids, while there are circumstances of much interest in connection with Dr. Paul's essay, which should be alluded to.

Nine varieties, it is said, of different manufacture of European quinine, were examined, and when it is considered that there are in all Europe but ten manufacturers of note—in England two, in France three, in Germany five, and in Italy two or three—and that the Italian quinines are but little known, it is only fair to infer that these nine varieties embraced all the brands of quinine of importance in European commerce.

QUININE IN COMMERCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Quinine was discovered in 1820 by Pelletier and Caventou, of France, but this new product of chemistry, like most new agents in medication, was slowly introduced into common use. My first acquaintance with this alkaloid salt began in 1826, when I entered as an apprentice a dispensing establishment. At that period it was mostly prescribed by the medical profession as an *occasional* remedy in intermittent malarial fevers, in doses of ten to twenty grains, in powders of ten in number, the usage being to weigh and divide into ten papers to be administered at

intervals of one hour each. That large demand which exists at the present time for quinine as a malarial preventive or tonic, or for subsequent treatment in malarial disorders, was almost wholly supplied for years, after its first introduction, by various preparations of cinchona bark. Calisaya or quinine bark, as this variety of bark was frequently called at this period, was powdered and prepared for market as a proprietary article in neat packages of one, two, and four ounces, with directions for domestic preparation and use, and extensively sold. But the new alkaloid salt worked its way into increasing use, and it made its first appearance in the customs list of the country in 1832, under a *protective duty of fifteen per cent. ad valorem*, in place of five per cent. as heretofore, among *unenumerated articles*.

The demand for quinine increased, but the supplies of cinchona bark more than kept pace with this demand, and the price of quinine sulphate declined from several dollars to \$1.25 per ounce, when the Peruvian government conceived the purpose of making cinchona bark a government monopoly, because at that period our supply of calisaya or quinine bark, yielding not less than two and a half per cent of quinia, was supplied by the single South American port of Callao. At that period two and a half per cent. was considered to be the minimum at which cinchona bark could be successfully treated for quinine, and an arrangement was made with English capitalists for advances on shipments. The crude bark was controlled and so managed that the price of sulphate of quinine was gradually advanced in the American market until it reached \$4.00 per ounce. This monopoly, however, like most arrangements of the sort, could not be continued for a long period. The increased price brought into use better methods of process in manufacture, and it was found that lower grades of bark, yielding less than two per cent., could be used with profit for the manufacture of quinine.

The enormous development of the manufacture of quinine in our country dates from this period, as our market has always been well supplied with the cheaper grades of bark, and but sparingly with the more valuable varieties. At the present time it is usually difficult to obtain in the American market cinchona barks that will yield much above two per cent. of quinia,

while in Europe all grades yielding less than two per cent. are classed as low.

Taking the year 1850 as a starting-point, because at that period the government monopoly of bark, which has been referred to, existed, the price of quinine sulphate of American manufacture for the past twenty-eight years has ruled, and our tariff variations have varied, as follows:—

Years.	Variations.	Duty on Quinine.	Duty on Bark.	Years.	Variations.	Duty on Quinine.	Duty on Bark.
1850	\$3.60@4.00	20%	15%	1864	\$2.60 @3.30	45%	20%
1851	3.60@3.90	"	"	1865	2.45 @3.20	"	"
1852	2.80@3.58	"	"	1866	2.37½@2.50	"	"
1853	2.70@3.57	"	"	1867	2.00 @2.37½	"	"
1854	2.70@2.80	"	"	1868	2.00 @2.40	"	"
1855	2.60@2.70	"	"	1869	2.10 @2.46	"	"
1856	2.40@2.70	"	"	1870	2.20 @2.30	20%	Free
1857	1.40@2.00	15%	Free	1871	2.30 @2.50	"	"
1858	1.25@1.40	"	"	1872	2.45 @2.50	"	"
1859	1.25@1.40	"	"	1873	2.45 @2.50	"	"
1860	1.25@1.75	"	"	1874	2.40 @2.50	"	"
1861	1.70@2.00	{ 20% 30%	{ 10% 15%	1875	2.25 @2.35	"	"
1862	2.00@3.00	45%	20%	1876	2.10 @2.45	"	"
1863	2.50@2.85	"	"	1877	2.38 @4.50	"	"

The most noticeable fact in this collection of figures is the decline which took place between 1857 and 1860, when, because of the imposition of a duty of fifteen per cent. on sulphate of quinine in 1857, in place of a differential duty of only five per cent., as between bark and quinine from 1864 to 1857, the Pelletier Company of France undertook the manufacture of quinine in New York.

The price of quinine in 1856, when the differential duty was five per cent., was \$2.70, and in 1857 it ranged from \$2.00 to \$1.40; 1858, \$1.40 to \$1.25; 1859, \$1.40 to \$1.25; and in 1860, \$1.25 to \$1.75. In 1861, when the French Company left, it was \$2.00, and in 1862 it advanced to \$3.00, as per tables annexed.

(To be continued.)

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE—SUICIDE AND
INSANITY.

BY W. P. STRICKLAND, D.D., LL.D.

Professor of Forensic Medicine and Medical Literature in the Eclectic Medical
College of the City of New York.

THE Hon. O. H. Palmer, of New York, delivered a lecture before the Medico-Legal Society of this city, at its meeting in March last, in which he took the ground that suicide was no evidence of insanity, and stoutly combated the popular belief, "that no man would take his own life unless demented or insane." This common belief, which he calls "a heresy in the public mind," he says "must be corrected." He assumes in his lecture to produce facts and authority, and cites a number of cases from the decisions of courts, to warrant him in affirming that "there is no presumption of law *prima facie*, or otherwise, that self-destruction arises from insanity." A very broad assertion, indeed, and one which in our opinion no facts or authorities can cover or sustain. Are we to infer from this that insanity is never a cause of *felo de se*—that there is no such thing as suicidal insanity? J. H. Balfour Browne, Esq., of the Middle Temple and Register at Law, London, has published a work of upward of 700 pages octavo, on the "Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity," in which he treats the subject exhaustively—describing all forms, and, among others, *suicidal* insanity and its legal relations. He says many wise men have argued that in certain circumstances a man is entitled, in self-defence, to kill himself! Hume, Rousseau, Madame De Staël, Montesquieu, Montaigne, Gibbon, and Voltaire, have all endeavored to show that, under certain circumstances one might be justified in committing suicide; and Robert of Normandy, surnamed the Devil, wrote in praise of it, and actually killed himself in proof of his belief; but ancient authority is cited in support of the doctrine of the right one has to commit murder on himself. Isocrates, Demosthenes, Cato, Lycurgus, Socrates, Seneca, Cæsar, and many

others, have tried to enter the eternal world through a private entrance. Our author says: "A very wise man might see reason to be hurled

" 'Anywhere, anywhere,
Out of the world.' "

There is another distich, which to us has more of the ring of true sanity in it, and one which we commend :

" Better bear the ills you have,
Than fly to those you know not of."

It seems to us to be trifling with a matter of the gravest importance for a learned judge, in this Christian age and Christian country, to labor to prove that "insanity is not a cause of suicide," and not only so, but to travel beyond the legitimate sphere of his subject and labor with equal, if not greater zeal, to disprove its criminality, and make it a justifiable act under such circumstances, as the suicide himself may deem sufficient. While we readily admit that some have committed suicide in a state of mental sanity, we must affirm that all such, without exception, are laboring under a state of *moral* insanity. We are shut up to this conclusion, and affirm that it is impossible for one not morally insane to rush uncalled for into the presence of that God who has declared that "no murderer hath eternal life." Zeno, and Epicurus, and Plato, and others, may speak of the bravery of the act of self-murder; but we are inclined to believe, with Pythagoras, that it is "the most base and cowardly act" a man can commit. It is infinitely braver to live and breast the storms of life, though they come in the horrid shapes of hatred, or malice, or poverty, or remorse itself, than from any motive whatever to escape them by the murderous act of suicide. A medical jurisprudence that is not founded upon the principles of morality—not drawn from the ethics of Seneca or Socrates—but from the only infallible rule of faith and practice, may be well enough for the guidance of a heathen, but certainly not for a Christian.

When physicians are called as witnesses in cases of insanity or any other where medical experts are required, it is not only

necessary that they be skilled in psychology and physiology, but that they be able, from the induction of facts brought to their notice, to analyze them carefully, and be able to make a nice distinction between the different forms of insanity, so as to direct and not mislead the jury in making up their verdict. The responsibility of the insane, and how far they are criminal and amenable to law, may involve a question of casuistry which it would puzzle the wisest to decide. Certainly there is no branch of medical jurisprudence more important for the physician to understand than insanity.

(*To be continued.*)

OBSERVATIONS ON MEDICAL SUBJECTS, WITH TREATMENT.

By O. E. NEWTON, M.D.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

OBSERVATIONS ON SLEEP.

A PROPER kind and quantity of sleep is the accompaniment of good health. Healthy exercise is essential for its production; temperate habits in eating and drinking are also essential. All past cares, and future anxieties, if possible, should be thrown off while attempting to sleep; to go into repose while in a happy and hopeful frame of mind, if possible. The pleasant part of the day should be just before sleeping, that the mind may have rest.

The bladder should be empty, and digestion after eating should be completed. People who are intemperate in eating late suppers, as a general rule, either sleep badly, or suffer the next day.

It is said that all persons who tried for a long time to live on less sleep than seven hours have suffered therefrom, and many will do better on fully eight hours than less, though there have been exceptions to this rule. It is also said that two hours before twelve are worth *more* than the same number after twelve,

which I believe is true ; many times when a delicate person is sleepless, the simple rubbing of the head with the naked hand, by a strong person, will relieve the nervous excitement and allow them to sleep. Bathing the feet in hot mustard water, drawing the blood from the brain by relieving congestion, will bring about sleep. Persons troubled with wakefulness should always retire with warm, dry feet.

MEASLES.

The symptoms of measles are watering of the eyes, frequent sneezing, and a slight hoarse cough in connection with slight fever. As this disease is at first often confounded with scarlet fever, I will give the differences: There is no sore-throat in measles, but there is in scarlet fever ; a rash appears in measles, so does it in scarlatina. In measles the rash is in blotches interspersed with white lines, which are slightly elevated. In scarlet fever there is great tendency to ulcerative putrescency of the fauces, from which the great danger comes. Expectorants, mild diaphoretics, rest, warmth, and low diet, are about all that is necessary in these cases. If there be much fever, I govern it with tr. aconite and ipecac ; if there be much congestion of the lungs, I treat the case accordingly.

The last condition is not likely to occur without there be great negligence on the part of the patient or nurse, allowing the patient to take cold. Patients who have been the subject of measles, are very likely to suffer subsequently from weak eyes ; therefore the greatest precaution should be ordered to protect the eyes from over-exposure, especially from reading, or over-taxing the eyes for some time after recovery. There are therefore two things that such cases are liable to : weak lungs and weak eyes, therefore the usual precautions against such a liability should be given.

QUINSY.

To know just what kind of a sore-throat I have before me, I carefully depress the tongue and have all the light I can to fall upon the throat. If I find the mucous surfaces very much congested, with one or both tonsils swollen, attended with difficult

deglutition, free of any ulceration or white dotted spots, I conclude the case before me as an uncomplicated one of quinsy; but if I find a general redness of the whole facial surface, dotted with white ulcerated spots, attended with a burning heat in the throat, this kind of a case I believe to be that of diphtheria. If the case should be common ulcerated sore throat, I find there will be surrounding redness with a distinct ulcer; this ulcer may be upon one tonsil or it may be upon both, provided the patient is not suspected of taking scarlet fever. In this last-named disease it is often the case that ulceration will be the first symptom of this disease, even before there is present scarcely any, and sometimes no fever. The presence of this state of ulceration, associated with the fact of exposure to scarlet fever is often made my guide, for the treatment after the development of the rash.

Quinsy is generally too well established before consultation is had to prevent suppuration of the tonsil or tonsils, therefore if I am satisfied of this fact I facilitate the formation of pus by the use of hot hop poultices, gargle with hot drink, such as hop-tea, etc., the inhalation of the steam of hops, bitter herbs, etc. Patiently watching this treatment for the formation and breaking of the abscess, which when done I order the throat to be gargled often, with a sol. chlorate potassa; tr. myrrh in water, or tr. hydrastis canadensis until all soreness is gone.

Now as the common cause of quinsy is from a cold settling upon a weak and diseased tonsil, the radical cure is to prevent exposure to cold and to heal the diseased and enlarged tonsil. Some tonsils are so diseased and enlarged that no treatment will reduce them. The only remedy to apply in such case is cutting them off with the guillotine, which is easily and quickly done, without danger, cutting with a view of excising the tonsil by taking off only *one-half*; when this half is laid out for examination, a probe in hand, when you can, in almost every instance, pass it through regular sieve-like openings; these openings pass not often beyond the centre of the tonsil.

The cause of quinsy sometimes is: these sinuses become contracted, either by cold or by the irritation of accumulated food at the bottom of them; these sinuses when closed, will only

be opened by suppuration, therefore, to make a radical cure of quinsy by preventing the return, is to get rid of those sinuses. If they are very superficial, they can be healed by injecting tr. iodine, or by passing, or touching the stick nitrate of silver to them. But the shortest and easiest way is to take them off by excision. If there be any evidence that a portion of the sinuses still shares its sieve-like openings upon the under surfaces from which the half has been removed, I touch it once or twice with a sharp point of stick caustic to heal them, and in nine cases out of ten the cause of quinsy is forever removed. Many persons will be apprehensive that their removal will interfere subsequently with their voice. Such will not be the result.

SUMMER COMPLAINT.

This is a disordered state of the digestive organs affecting usually the whole alimentary canal. The cause generally is teething. It is supposed as the teeth force themselves through the surface it produces a sympathetic irritation extending to the stomach and bowels, attended with vomiting and diarrhœa. If I find the discharge acid, the corrector will be an aromatic tea and soda. If much nausea, the anti-emeticus :

R. Aqua peppermint.....	} aa 3 iiss.
" spearmint.....	
" camphor.....	
Tr. opii camph.....	3 vii.

M. One teaspoonful every 10 to 15 minutes until relieved.

With local applications of spices, say of powdered allspice, cinnamon, and ginger, one tablespoonful of each, to this add two tablespoonfuls of corn-meal. Mix with half whiskey and half water to the consistence of a mustard plaster, spread and apply over the stomach, protecting it from the skin. Every two or three hours, if getting dry, I simply wet it with the liquid. A new one to be made every twelve hours. If the retchings continue I have often given an injection of salt, one-half teaspoonful to an ounce of mucilage gum acacia, twice per day.

Diet: The clear, white pickled pork, parboiled to take out the salt, and broiled (not too much), and given to the child to eat

and suck at pleasure. I have very often found this one of the most complete correctors of this looseness of the bowels with children of anything else I could use, though crackers boiled in lamb broth strained, tapioca, farina, etc., are all good. If I find, when called to such cases, there is a distinct fullness of the gum over the tooth trying to come through, I lance the gum and let it through.

The great relief will often stop the diarrhoea by removing the cause of the irritation. I am careful not to cut too soon, thus allowing the wound to heal again and form a scar for the tooth to cut through, as this would be an additional impediment. This meat treatment is very useful. I have used it in cases of summer complaint; when first called, I found the babies having fifteen to twenty mucous sanguineous discharges per day, so weak that they were carried on feather pillows, rapidly recover upon this meat diet. Though I might say there are some children who I have not been able to induce to take it, but such cases are exceptions.

The neutralizing cordial is often recommended in these cases, but has not generally in my hands been satisfactory in its results. I have found in some extreme cases of gastro-intestinal irritation that:

R. Sheffler's pepsin..... grs. xx.
 Subnit. bismuth..... grs. vi.
 M.

Make into (20) twenty powders; are very good to check the vomiting, as well as to lessen the diarrhoea. I have had the most signal benefit from the use of quinia used endemically:

R. Quinia sulph..... grs. vi. to x.
 Glycerin..... $\frac{3}{4}$ i. to $\frac{3}{4}$ ij.
 M.

Having first washed the skin over the stomach and bowels, rub the emulsion well over the surface, to be repeated twice per day, over which each time place a flannel bandage.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec., 1878.

MEDICAL COLLEGES, MEDICAL PROGRESS, AND AMERICAN PRE-EMINENCE.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE OF PROF. J. R. BUCHANAN, DELIVERED AT
THE E. M. COLLEGE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1878.

(Continued from page 254, Vol. V., No. VI., 1878.)

A LARGE proportion of all the new remedies of modern science have been brought in by the industrious followers of Hahnemann. Their contributions to the healing art are greater than those of all their European contemporaries, in the same time. The chief mass of original contributions to the healing art in this country is that of the group of physicians who represent purely American thought—who discard the authority of the old colleges and adopt the title of Eclectic, to show that, while they may boast of their own contributions, they are not unfriendly to any honorable effort to advance medical science, but, like the American Republic, they offer an asylum of freedom to all who escape from oppression. While all other medical schools proscribed the followers of Hahnemann, and sought to make them professional outcasts, the Eclectic school welcomed them as honorable brethren, and gave them a full hearing in the Eclectic College in which I was then engaged.

That the American Eclectic contributions to the healing art are greater than all others; that they are greater than either the Homœopathic or the Allopathic contributions during the last fifty years, I feel competent to maintain, because, during that time the great Homœopathic contributions have been almost entirely in symptomatology, therapeutics, and materia medica; and the Allopathic contributions, which have been in symptomatology, therapeutics, and materia medica, also, have added much in detail to anatomy and physiology, but have not enlarged the science of physiology beyond the limits in which it was left in the last century. In the Eclectic school, on the contrary, which has added but little to the details of anatomy and physiology, but an immense amount to therapeutics and materia medica,

we have made a great and fundamental revolution in physiological science, which must, when it has undergone the usual delay of new discoveries in waiting for recognition, be universally recognized as the consummation of the heretofore imperfect outline of physiology; that consummation consists in adding to the physiology of the body the physiology of the brain; and the change which it makes in physiology is just the same which is made in converting an acephalous fetus into a human being.

After the ever memorable year 1628, in which circulation by the heart and the absorption by the lacteals were almost simultaneously revealed, there remained little more in man to be explored but the undiscovered functions of his brain and nervous system. In the medical colleges which trace their pedigree and faith up to antiquity, it is believed that since 1628, for the last 250 years, all the world's scientific corps have rightly been content with this incomplete physiology, and the blind, blundering doctrines of an unfinished science. The brain, the master organ of man, the seat of all our conscious life, the very *chef d'œuvre* of omnipotence, has remained to this day the opprobrium of the colleges, as the western hemisphere was the opprobrium of geography before the days of Columbus. If the American mind has removed this opprobrium and completed the circle of physiological science by adding the physiology of the brain, its paramount claims cannot be denied; for the circle of discovery is complete; there are *no more worlds* to conquer in biology, and the science which has been so incomplete, so thoroughly acephalous, that many able writers have in their impatience denied that it was a science at all, can present itself not only as science, but as something more—as a philosophy which comprehends the relations of life and death, disease and health, man and medicine, the soul and the body, physiological organization, and the eternal principle of life, which the colleges have ignored.

You will have in this college the demonstration of the truth that there is a complete physiology of man, unknown to the medical schools of rigid orthodoxy, and that this new physiology modifies the entire philosophy of medicine, points out new criteria of health, disease, and temperament, aids in the diagnosis of

disease and idiosyncrasy, renders the use of electricity scientific and successful, brings the chaos of animal magnetism into the shape of exact science, and points out many methods of treating disease without the aid of medicine, while it offers a royal road for the future cultivators of medical science, promising to accelerate tenfold that march of progress, which has been so slow in the past. That progress is going on in an increasing ratio. There was more progress in thirty years of Galileo's life than in the two thousand years before him, and I believe there has been and will be more progress in the nineteenth century than in all the centuries before it combined.

The new physiology of man gives such a clearer view of human powers and the true methods of cultivating science, that by these facilities the twentieth century will surpass its predecessor as the nineteenth surpasses the eighteenth. These discoveries in fact outrun the progress of human belief, and actually seem laughable to the vulgar mind in their more marvelous phenomenon, just as galvanism was considered a ludicrous humbug, and the followers of Galvani were called the frog's dancing-masters, because galvanism was demonstrated on the thighs of frogs. The wonderful power of medical diagnosis which is conferred by psychometry is here, a matter of daily practice; yet, in any medical college in lineal and regular descent from the universities of Padua and Oxford, it would not be hailed as a contribution to science, however well demonstrated, but would be resisted with all the bitterness with which Horkey opposed Galileo. I take no pleasure in making such statements concerning medical schools, but it is proper to tell the truth for the sake of reform; and I must say, that in thirty-five years I have never heard of any faculty who have any lively desire to investigate extraordinary and essentially new discoveries. Such men as Prof. Caldwell, of Louisville, and Prof. J. K. Mitchell, of the Jefferson Medical College, are the exceptions that prove the rule.

It is the distinguishing characteristic of the old system of collegiate education, that it does not teach men to reason, and that they are led to believe that science has attained nearly to its maximum; that the opinions which have been formed in our imperfect state of knowledge are positive finalities, and that any

great change in them would be an assault upon the very foundations of society, which ought to be resisted as we would resist a burglar. The self-satisfied professor, who feels like Dr. Carpenter, that he knows it all, that he has reached the impassable limits of human knowledge, and that wisdom will die with him, impresses with all his power upon the tender minds of the young the sacred duty of transmitting unimpaired his opinions, all his knowledge and all his ignorance, and when they develop into professors in turn, they transmit the sacred legacy of ignorance to posterity as little impaired as possible.

It was an established opinion among the Aristotelians that there were but seven planets, and in the nature of things there could not be any more than the sacred number seven, and therefore they objected to looking through Galileo's telescope to see the truth. Horkey said he would sooner die than concede this point to Galileo.

In like manner, certain colleges to-day hold that there is nothing in existence and can be nothing but matter and force, although every human thought or emotion is a refutation of this theory and the universe teems with facts that refute the materialist. This doctrine necessarily excludes the human soul, and they do not fear to exclude it entirely, as Flint's Physiology says that mind is simply the product of the action of the brain. In excluding everything of a spiritual character they necessarily exclude the nervous forces of human life which are essentially spiritual, and thus ignore all the well-attested facts of animal magnetism, and, carrying out the theory, they necessarily exclude the divine, and thus sweep away all religion. Having neither divine nor spiritual causes in the narrow range of their theory, they are compelled to make all things originate spontaneously from the slime of the ocean, thus going back to the ignorance of the Greeks, who believed that eels were generated by mud.

Prof. Hæckel, a German leader in such speculations, is so frank and fearless as to have said, at a recent scientific gathering in Paris, that man certainly descended from a monkey—from a hairy animal with pointed ears—that perched in a tree. Hæckel and Huxley are alike dogmatic and sarcastic in defence of this

monkey theory of humanity, and Prof. Huxley even goes farther in reviving the obsolete speculations of Des Cartes, the theory that animals are merely unconscious machines, like clocks or steam-engines, a doctrine which would justify the cruelties of vivisection and would make our Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals absolutely insane in trying to prevent what cannot exist, as animals have no feeling.

All this is but the blind dogmatism of speculative Theorists, who shut the eyes to facts as stubbornly as the Aristotelians contended for seven planets. It is the hereditary dogmatism of the college, a dogmatism without reason, for in all the myriad years of geological time, during which the earth has recorded in fossils its own history, there is no record of an Anthropoid ape passing into anything that could be called a man. There is no skull or bone of any such intermediate type, nor any example of the slime of the ocean advancing toward the organization of a vertebrated fish, nor of any single transformation of one species of animal into another. The whole materialistic theory is—as Agassiz pronounced it—one “mire of assertion.”

I refer to these learned follies because they are just as great now in the colleges as they were three hundred years ago, and especially in medical colleges; and I fully understand the stubbornness of that dogmatism which rejected the demonstration of so simple a truth as the circulation of the blood, and which has lost none of its power in two hundred and fifty years; nevertheless, if I live long enough to visit Paris, I shall confront the French Academy with experimental facts and see whether they will resist the science of the brain as stubbornly as they resisted the science of the heart. At the proper time I shall also test this question with the medical profession of New York whether they are any better than their predecessors were two hundred and fifty years ago.

After my abortive attempts with the medical faculty of the Louisville University and with the Boston Academy of Sciences, in the days of Warren and Jackson, which failed simply because of their unmanly evasion, without any discredit to myself or my doctrines, against which they said nothing, I gave up the attempt to reach the disciplined and party-bound portion of the medical profession, until last year, at my suggestion, the Kentucky State

Medical Society appointed a committee to investigate my experiments, but although I waited six months for the investigation before leaving the State, nothing was done in that time and I am sure nothing would have been done if I had remained, unless by persevering effort and solicitation on my part, although three hours would have been sufficient for the most decisive experiments. Is it not a miserable system of collegiate education which produces such indifference and such hostility to plain, positive, experimental science?

The President of the Society told me, privately, in the hall of meeting, that the Society would never give me a hearing, for I was either a thousand years behind the age or a thousand years in advance of it, but he could not tell which. But I am certain that he knows to-day, for he has gone to a better world, where there is a more unclouded vision for the soul and where there are no orthodox Medical Societies.

In view of these facts, I ask you if I am not right in declining to beg for a hearing from that authority which shuns investigation and closes its journals to discussion? Am I not right in adopting the policy of Lamartine, who said: "I place my barque on the highest promontory of the beach and wait for the rising of the tide to make it float?" I know the tide is rising and it will be high tide in fourteen years.

Those who are not well acquainted with medical history and doctrines have little idea of the stubbornness with which medical corporations resist the progress of science, holding on to theories thirty years after they have been refuted, and how necessary it is that medical schools should be revolutionized.

All this dogmatism we discard. It does not belong to the American system, which is a Protestant rebellion against infallibility. We leave the dead past behind us; we have no theories to be enforced against facts; we follow science and experience wherever they go every year and every month, learning something new and placing ourselves farther and farther in advance of the position we occupied thirty years ago; farther and farther in advance of those who adhere to the old and dislike the new. The distance between progressive portions of the profession and the college-bound conservatives is every year increasing. The

eagle with the Eclectic freedom of the open sky will never be approached by the yoked oxen confined to the dusty road.

The doctrine for which we contended at the risk of professional ruin, thirty years ago—that depletion by the lancet throwing away blood was simply an attack on vitality and not on the disease—is now generally recognized, but no apology has been made to American Eclectics for the proscriptive injustice to which they were subjected for insisting on this needed reform.

Other Eclectic improvements are slowly and furtively adopted twenty-five or thirty years later than they should be, and every one of our hundred new remedies will in time be adopted. They will first be privately bought and furtively used, as if there was something disreputable in the experiment; then they will be used habitually and freely proscribed, taking especial care to conceal their Eclectic origin. At length they will acknowledge that Eclectics have done some good, and finally the more liberal will say that they intend to use all the Eclectic remedies as far as they understand them, and they will say, even before they understand one-half of the Eclectic resources, that they are themselves the very best Eclectics in the world and use all things that they find useful, even while they maintain their hostile relations to rational and thorough Eclecticism.

It is pitiable, indeed, to look at the littleness of human nature as shown in medical rivalry, in which we see distinguished physicians privately using homœopathic and eclectic remedies while publicly opposing them. It would take some time to detail the practices of gentlemen who use Eclectic remedies while opposing Eclecticism. That is quite common; but it is much more peculiar and amusing when gentlemen who have been denouncing Homœopathy as a delusion and a fraud try a little of the delusion themselves in a private way. Thus a distinguished Allopathic physician, belonging to the Medical Society, exhibited to a friend a case of homœopathic medicines that he carried in his pocket, confessing that he secretly used them, especially in the cases of woman and children, and thus obtained better results.

Another Allopathic physician and surgeon, who esteems himself as eminent as any in New York, had a case of myalgia, in which bryonia is considered the Homœopathic remedy. He

prescribed bryonia of the third decimal potency, sending the man to Radde's pharmacy to get it—where he got it and was cured. These, however, are "honorable men;" they are strictly regular, and would, no doubt, unite in ostracising any one who would do openly and honestly what they do secretly.

How much more manly and honorable is it when we see the Homœopathic physicians of this State publicly and distinctly renouncing all bigoted rules of exclusive practice, and declaring, by resolution in State convention, that they adopt the Eclectic principle of doing their duty to the patient by any and every means in their power, and do not regard one particular method of treatment as the sum total of medical science, which must be enforced on everybody by a proscriptive combination. They have done themselves honor by this action, and their patients will receive the benefit, as the people are always benefited by medical liberality and always suffer from medical bigotry.

Homœopaths have felt so severely the power of professional bigotry and proscription, it was their more obvious duty to discard that bigotry in their own code of morals. Female physicians are in a similar position. They have encountered long the derisive taunts, the vulgar insolence and coarseness of medical opposition from professors and students, and legal hindrance to their entrance into a profession for which they have peculiar qualifications; duties which certain men willingly perform when they have a guinea and two guineas for expressing an opinion, and \$100 or \$500 a day for a day's services, but which women, whom they spurn, have often performed without either money or honor from heroic benevolence. Think of the seven women who went as volunteers to Memphis to save the dying, every one of whom has died in her brave service. To such women medical bigotry has refused a medical education.

In view of such facts it would seem especially incumbent on women of self-respect not to bow before the authority that had so long spurned their humble petitions and derided their labors, and submit to the disciplined bigotry of that regularism which has been their most unmanly foe. But the very virtue of woman is often allied to weakness, and we see every month women who have been cruelly beaten, even to the endangering

of their lives, appearing in the police court to beg off from punishments their brutal husbands. In like manner we sometimes see women—weakly overpowered by the glamour of wealth, power, and fashion—enlisting in the ranks of that medical orthodoxy, the spirit of which is so antagonistic to all the peculiar virtues of women—which freezes the genial currents of the soul, deadens her humanitarian sympathies, chills her curiosity in all new knowledge, obscures the light of religion, deadens the spirit of progress, stamps on her face the cold sneer of professional jealousy, and consummates its triumph over her yielding nature by converting her into that moral anomaly, a female medical bigot.

The Eclectic movement has ever welcomed women, and has been giving them professional education for the last thirty years. In this we believe we are doing mankind a service, which entitles us to the sympathy of all philanthropists.

American Eclecticism is practical philanthropy, and has most urgent claims upon all philanthropists. To the scientific philanthropist it presents this distinct and emphatic claim, that it reduces to one-half the loss, the suffering and the mortality of diseases. I cannot give any accurate statistics at present, but when I was formerly engaged in medical teaching and editing, it was the unanimous opinion of our physicians that the mortality was much less than half of the average mortality under the old style of practice, and less than one-fourth in the treatment of cholera.

Whether this disproportion is as great now since the lancet has been laid aside and calomel is no longer the panacea, I cannot say, but certainly the disproportion is still very great, since an Eclectic physician I might name, in a whole year's extensive and profitable practice, had only seven deaths; and another, a very skilful Eclectic physician in successful practice, had no deaths at all for so long a time that the Board of Health entirely forgot that there was such a physician in the city as Dr. Hayden, of 150 East Thirty-second Street. In the treatment of pneumonia Prof. Bennett, who is certainly one of the most eminent physicians of Great Britain, thought it quite creditable that he had a mortality of only twenty-eight per cent. No Eclectic college or

medical society would consider such a result reputable ; on the contrary, in the severe prevalence of pneumonia in this city about four years ago, the discussion of this subject in the Eclectic Medical Society did not develop that a single patient had died under Eclectic treatment.

A dreary, miserable, heartless skepticism and doubt whether medicine is of much value is often heard in the old school party. The severest denunciations ever uttered against medical science have been uttered by those professors and physicians who knew only the old school treatment. But nothing of this kind is heard among Eclectics, for they know they can cure, and are accustomed to do it quickly. A distinguished Eclectic professor and author, who has just returned from Europe, says in his journal :

"Whilst conceding the thoroughness with which physicians across the water have studied anatomy, physiology, pathology, etc., I am sure that in the administration of remedies they are very far behind us. I should very much dislike to have a European physician treat me for any ailment, preferring to trust myself to the nurse and the cook. They have a most singular habit of waiting for disease to develop so that they may give it a correct name, and thus prescribe for the name a certain recognized routine of medicines. I have known a person under the care of a college professor suffer with fever for five days without an attempt to relieve, in order that the *kind* of fever might be known, when, with right remedies, the fever could have been modified from the first, and arrested by the time our savant was ready to prescribe."

We know the signal failures of European physicians in diseases which are successfully treated here. We remember that they had at one time a mortality of sixty per cent. by cholera in Paris, and we do feel the most sovereign scorn for the attempt to make us bow to these men as our masters who are to prescribe an authoritative code to guide our faith and our practice, when they have never yet shown themselves our equals in practical success. American Eclecticism, coming from an humble origin without either wealth, prestige, or social influence, would have vanished like a morning fog if it had not conquered prejudice by curing those who were deemed incurable.

If there is any cheaper and more direct practical philanthropy than the encouragement of American Eclectic practice, it cannot be found in the sphere of science, but must be sought in such moral reforms as that which would abolish intemperance. I claim for the supporters of Eclectism in New York an honorable recognition as disinterested philanthropists. I congratulate the people of this city upon having an institution here to diffuse the American Eclectic practice, and I hope I may hereafter congratulate them upon having a hospital to impart its benefits to those who do not desire the treatment of Bellevue. The public funds have too long been absorbed in supporting fossilized and dead monopolies. Look at the vast amounts which have been expended at Ward's Island and elsewhere in supporting our Inebriate Asylums under Allopathic control, which are conceded in this country and abroad to have been utter failures. What has become of these vast sums? Where have they gone? Echo answers, *gone*. When Allopathic quackery is buried, the people's money is buried with it. New York can afford to waste her money in that way just as well as she can afford to waste it on Tweed. She might have applied her money more judiciously, and saved many thousands from a drunkard's grave, for during the last thirty years thousands of drunkards have been cured by Eclectic and Homœopathic treatment, and I believe the gentlemen are sitting before me who have made many of these cures. If the city of New York, or the temperance societies of this country, are sufficiently free from medical domination to place an Inebriate Asylum under the management of the faculty of this College, they would initiate one of the greatest reforms of the age—an example which would extend to the utmost limits of civilization.

I am happy to say that the money expended on architecture at Ward's Island has not been lost, for the city has taken those empty halls, where Allopathic folly died a natural death, and converted it into a Homœopathic Hospital, where living science flourishes over the grave of dead quackery.

It is not wrong nor in bad taste to apply the term quackery, for I do not apply it indiscriminately or vindictively. I apply it simply to the Ward's Island failure. We know that educated

quackery is far more plausible, more imposing, and more dangerous than ignorant quackery, and needs a sterner rebuke, for it has ten times as many victims, and ten times the audacity and power. I do not apply the term quackery to the old school party in general, for I have many personal friends among them; but they will agree with me that their profession shelters a great deal of quackery.

Eclecticism is a grand moral reform, which has a right to demand the co-operation of the church, the press, and all good men and women. It aims to abolish bigotry in a great profession which has a powerful influence on society, and to substitute for its jealous, selfish spirit a spirit of universal toleration and liberality. It aims to change the whole moral tone of a profession which derided Harvey, so that such offences shall not be repeated, and future discoverers shall not be compelled to undergo martyrdom before they can benefit their kind. It aims to enlarge and elevate our ideas of life by including in the science of life that living principle which is eternal, and thus placing the medical profession in a better attitude, no longer as the champion of materialism and of that species of science which is in conflict with religion.

Armed with this science, you, our students, may encounter disease with a luminous confidence that, in following Eclectic teachings, you have done your whole duty to your confiding patients. I congratulate you upon the sound judgment you have shown in resorting to an institution which represents the most advanced condition of medical science. You will receive, as Eclectic physicians have everywhere received, an outpouring of gratitude from those to whom you bring relief, which they have found nowhere else. You will be enabled to do this by diligent attendance upon every lecture in which the mature knowledge and experience of the faculty are given. Anatomy and chemistry will be given you as demonstrative sciences, as they are in all schools. Our surgery, as you may see in the Eclectic text-book, differs widely, especially in its conservative character, from old-school teachings. Our physiology, as you will see in this volume, embodies the greatest possible departure from the old physiology by explaining the seat of life—the nervous system.

In our Eclectic obstetrics you will find a great deal of new treatment—new to the Old World, but long familiar with our school. In our Eclectic therapeutics or practice, three-fourths of our treatment consists of American improvements. In the use of electricity we are guided by a science entirely new, and in our *Materia Medica* you will find one hundred and fifty new remedies illustrated in this ponderous Eclectic Dispensatory. We hope that you will be as diligent in your studies as the faculty are in teaching, and thus become benefactors to society—teaching those who have been prejudiced against all medical science by scientific quackery that, in your hands it is really the art of healing quickly, safely, and pleasantly.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ABSTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. Y. STATE ECLEC- TIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE Society convened in Association Hall, Syracuse, Oct. 16, 1878.

Meeting called to order by the President, William Jones, M.D., of Newburg.

The minutes of last session were read and approved.

The Secretary's report showing total receipts of \$414.30 for the year; the possession of seven hundred and sixty-one books in the circulating library, and eighty-three in the permanent; reporting the issue of two volumes of transactions during the year.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$33.25, was read and referred.

The Board of Censors reported favorably upon all nominees for permanent membership excepting that from the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine (objection to Dr. A. Gunn), which at their meeting had been tabled.

The following members were elected: A. C. Taylor, D. E. Stoke, W. M. Silvernail, H. B. Sharp, M. B. Ladd, J. W. Sargent, W. R. Bartlett, D. N. Waterbury, E. L. Baker, A. J. Butterfield, G. A. Thayer, I. H. Horton, J. D. Gilbert, O. D. Stiles, O. S. Brown, J. H. Converse, A. Cullen, A. E. Sands and A. H. Hochstrasser.

The Secretary was instructed to include in the next volume a copy of all State laws touching the practice of medicine and surgery.

The Finance Committee reported favorably on the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary. Report adopted.

Adjourned to 2 P. M.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Dr. Jones in the chair.

The following were appointed a committee to nominate officers:

Drs. S. Roe, Jr., O. Davis, S. Tuthill, W. W. Nims, B. J. Stow, R. E. Kunzé, F. D. Gridley, C. E. Hill, and S. E. Mortimore.

The minutes of the Sullivan County Society, and credentials of Drs. Newton and Mortimore, for Eclectic Medical College of N. Y., were presented.

FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

The Secretary, Dr. J. Edwin Donelson, delivered the annual address, subject: "The Wastes of Life."

On motion of Dr. T. L. Harris, a vote of thanks was tendered the speaker for his able and instructive address.

Adjourned to 8 A. M.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Called to order at the appointed time, Dr. W. Jones in the chair.

Delegates appointed to National Association: Drs. G. D.

Hewitt, S. Millington, R. H. Owen, H. Pease, D. H. Foster, J. A. Hawley, J. B. Chapman, S. S. Carter, G. W. Taylor, J. J. Sharp, D. D. Douglass, J. G. Holland, B. M. Genung, P. Low, and A. P. Parsons. The president was empowered to appoint substitutes, in case of absence or inability to attend.

A petition signed by physicians of Troy, asking consolidation of Eastern District, and Albany County Societies was presented, referred to committee, reported favorably, and adopted.

The resolutions were adopted; Dr. Orin Davis, of Attica, entertained the Society with an address upon the Requisites of a Physician.

The Board of Censors reported for permanent membership Drs. A. H. Wright, C. McConnell.

The nominating Committee presented their report, recommending the following named persons for the office opposite each named:

President, Albert Fox, M.D., of Pawling.

Vice-President, H. A. Bolles, M.D., of Cortland.

Recording Secretary and Librarian, J. Edwin Donelson, M.D., of New York (Box 788).

Corresponding Secretary, S. Roe, Jr., M.D., of Wappinger's Falls.

Treasurer, Samuel Tuthill, M.D., of Poughkeepsie.

BOARD OF CENSORS.

H. E. Firth, M.D., S. E. Mortimore, M.D., Alexander Wilder, M.D., Samuel Tuthill, M.D., John Wilson, M.D., H. Pease, M.D., W. N. Nims, M.D., J. N. Betts, M.D., J. C. Hulbert, M.D., and W. B. Preston, M.D.

Each were by ballot elected. Syracuse was voted as the place for holding the next session.

An essay, entitled "Self-Improvement," was presented by W. Bell, M.D.

Essays upon the treatment of wounds, laxation of the atlas, and a case of constipation and hemorrhage were offered by title by Dr. H. W. Leonard.

Adjourned to 2 P.M.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

An essay on ovariectomy was offered by title by Dr. Mortimore.

The chair was by vote instructed to appoint essayists for the next meeting within three months of adjournment; and the board of directors to apportion hours of the next session for business exclusively.

Time of next meeting, October 8th and 9th, 1879.

HALIFAX (N. S.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of this Society was held on, Thursday, December 5th, in the Provincial Building, with an attendance rather above the average. The Secretary read a letter from H. W. Crawley, Esq., of Sydney, C. B., offering to donate the Society a large and valuable collection of Provincial newspapers extending over the last seventy years. The Secretary was directed to accept the same.

W. F. MacCoy, Esq., presented the Society with a valuable relic of

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

of 1776, it being one of the printed notices mailed to each of the freeholders in Boston calling the famous meeting that resulted in the determination to throw the tea into the harbor.

Robt. Morrow, Esq., called the attention of the Society to the International Congress of Americans and the importance of the work the Society was doing for Canadian as well as American history, and moved that "the Secretary, on behalf of this Society, be directed to comply with the conditions of membership."

Francis Parkman, Esq., of Boston, was proposed for honorary membership, and unanimously elected; also M. J. Griffin, Esq., of Ottawa, and James Hannay, Esq., of St. John, N. B., for corresponding membership.

The Society discussed the general question of the early discov-

ery of this country by Cabot, and the route followed in the first voyage. Several casts taken from inscriptions cut in the solid rock, were exhibited, showing plainly that the Northmen had discovered this province long before the time of Columbus.

The great purpose of all Historical Societies is to keep up the connecting link between the past and the present, as time and events transpire, and periods pass on all the past in this respect is the more valuable.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND SELECTIONS.

DR. ROBERT S. NEWTON, JR.'S, RETURN HOME.

Dec. 13, 1878, was a day of good feeling at the Eclectic Medical College of this city. In the afternoon of this day there were assembled, in addition to the class, many ladies and gentlemen visitors and friends of the college to meet Dr. Rob't S. Newton, Jr., who had just returned home from his long absence abroad. The president of the college, Prof. Newton, on introducing Dr. Newton, Jr., remarked: "Ladies and gentlemen, It gives me very great pleasure to be able to introduce to you Dr. R. S. Newton, Jr., who has just returned, and who will soon assume the labors of the position to which the board of trustees have assigned him. I can assure you this is the most happy day of my life, and one to which I have looked forward for many years, when I could, after seeing my only son fully educated in his profession, be able to join me in the work of elevating and extending the cause of medical eclecticism."

To which Dr. Newton, Jr., replied:

"Ladies and gentlemen,—I cannot express to you my heartfelt gratification in meeting you to-day; my only regret being that our introduction has been delayed until this late hour, but my official duties abroad prevented my being present at the opening of the session. I hope that you will make all due allowance for any shortcomings. It being late in the session, perhaps I will not

be able to give so systematic a course of lectures as I should like, but I assure you that whatever I do will be for the good of the cause and the college, and I trust of benefit to you as students. I occupy, as you know, a very delicate position, having to follow so great a lecturer and teacher as my father, for through his abilities as a teacher and expounder of eclecticism the cause is known throughout this country by his name; and abroad I have often heard the remark, 'Oh, we know that you have good men who work, men who have brains, and men who will do anything to ensure success;' but we are not known by the name Eclectic, but as a body we have made ourselves heard by the most positive of all arguments, the undeniable evidences as to what reformed medicine has accomplished; its future is bright, but many obstacles have to be overcome before we place our school on high. I firmly believe that ours will be *the* school of medicine, when all sectarian distinctions will be set aside and men will be doctors of medicine, and consulted according to the catholic views that they hold, not bound by the prejudices that trammel the present time. Naturally one notices great difference between the schools here, and those abroad; regarding their systems of practice, while abroad they devote themselves almost entirely to diagnosis and pathology, even to the exclusion of treatment, in America we are decidedly the other way; we devote no time to pathology, and consider diagnosis a prover of treatment, not as the basis upon which only can a scientific treatment be indicated. We have the grandest *Materia Medica* in existence. Unfortunately it is too much limited to our own country. There are thousands of sufferers abroad who could be benefited if the profession were familiar with our remedies. With our practical habits we do not pay sufficient attention to details which constitute the foundation of medicine. I mean that the majority of practitioners, while being perfectly able to combat diseases, do so with very little real advantage to themselves, owing to the imperfect diagnosis, and the one idea that the only essentials are drugs. They say, 'What we want is to cure our cases.' True, it is what the patient demands from his physician; still if their patients are cured without the physician knowing exactly how or through what channel the recovery takes place, he certainly is

not benefited, and as to the cause to assert progress upon such a groundwork, is admitting empiricism. If we could combine the system of diagnosing and pathology of Europe with the therapeutical ability of America, then one would see the system of medicine that is bound to live. While recognizing that the practice of medicine is firmly established, yet with the multitudinous and increasing sophistries I doubt if any system can long exist without the combination, for the physicians who believe solely in medicine never benefited one human being except through their individuality. Make pathology your base, then disease will cease to be surrounded by the inexplicables that so hamper the majority of physicians. I cannot promise to give you any regular course upon surgery, as Prof. Newton has already discussed at length many of the subjects, but I will bring to your notice what I think will be of practical value, and many subjects with treatment that are entirely new to this country. I can promise you that such treatment as I recommend will be reliable, for it was learned at the bedside during many months of attentive observation, and based upon hundreds of cases seen daily, and even hourly from their first symptoms to the end. With my thanks for the kind attention which you have given to my few remarks, I will say *au revoir* until to-morrow, when I begin my first regular lecture."

THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Since the organization of this useful and hard-working society it has been difficult to combine the opposing elements so as to form one harmonious body. For a time the well wishes were encouraged by the progress and harmony. But, like all prominent organizations, it had to pass from halcyon days to those not so favorable, either to the cause or the existence of this society; when enemies once effect an entrance, it is only by unity that they can be repulsed. The last annual meeting of this Society, held at Syracuse, was a memorable one, for if the friends of the society had not been in force, the "disintegrating element" would have made an effort to destroy its utility, or completely disorganized it. Our duty as a journalist forces us to acquaint

our readers with the facts, that they may reflect and determine whether this Society is to continue its good, or be destroyed through instrumentality of a few, who are friends of nothing, not even to themselves.

AN ENTERTAINMENT AT THE COLLEGE.

Monday evening, December 23, 1878, was the occasion of a very pleasant reunion at the Eclectic Medical College of this city, given by the students, in honor of the return of Dr. Robert S. Newton, Jr., from Europe, where he has been, during the last three years, holding official appointments in the largest of the London Hospitals. It was also the occasion of his installation as Professor of Surgery and Ophthalmology. During the evening a pleasant surprise was prepared for Prof. Newton, Sr., he being the recipient of a magnificent gold-headed cane, presented by the students of the class of 1878-9, as a token of their regard. Shortly after nine o'clock Mr. Henri L. Stuart ascended the rostrum and made the introductory address: "Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to be able to inform you that there is one among us this evening, one whose arrival has long been anxiously expected, I refer to Dr. Robert S. Newton, Jr., who has recently returned from Europe to undertake his duties as one of the professors of this Institution. He has impressed the trustees of this institution, and many of its friends, and many of the medical men connected with the Eclectic school, with having achieved a success something more than honorable—a remarkable success; that he has done honor even to the great fame and character and skill of his father, the honored president and founder of this institution, without whose effort and action no school like this would have existed in this State to-day. Under these circumstances I have deemed it a duty, not only to appear here and make this announcement, but to say to you that it has been delegated to a class-mate and fellow student of the institution at the time he was graduated, to read to you an address, welcoming him back to his native land, to his alma mater, and to this occasion on which you have honored us by your presence."

Dr. George W. Boskowitz read a finely written poem from the pen of William Ross Wallace, which, referring to the return of the young professor, also ably drew attention to the work which Eclecticism had accomplished, and how precious a treasure the pioneers were entrusting to the young Eclectics. After this address had been warmly applauded Mr. Stuart remarked:

"I have been requested to announce to you that Dr. Robert S. Newton, the president of this institution, has been walking lame for several days past, and the students have taken that fact into consideration and have concluded to help him, and to *cane* him in the right way. One of the Committee of students to whom this interesting and pleasant duty has been assigned by the class, Dr. Smith, will now come forward and proceed to *cane* the doctor in due form."

Dr. Smith then presented Dr. Newton with a magnificent gold-headed cane, and addressed the company:

"Ladies and gentlemen: The class have done me the honor of choosing me to present this slight token of regard and respect to Professor Robert S. Newton, the founder and president of the Eclectic Medical College, with the assurance of our best wishes, and that we appreciate his earnest efforts in our behalf, especially in instilling into our minds the principles of reformed medicine, for which he has labored for the past thirty-five years, and whose earnest leader he now is. It is with the assurance of our best wishes, and the desire that he may long honor the institution which he has founded, and with which he has been so many years connected, that we now present him with this token of our regard."

Dr. Newton responded:

"Dr. Smith, in behalf of the class, and ladies and gentlemen present, I acknowledge this as a great favor, and I may say a great privilege. It was entirely unexpected; I knew nothing about the programme here to-night. I have been pleased with the exercises as far as they have gone, and especially with what I have received. It is said that *canning* is necessary; and it becomes so under different circumstances. Although, as it has been suggested by our worthy secretary, I have been laming—it is not

necessary to explain why—on the 12th day of the month past I was sixty years old ; and I am not the oldest man in the faculty either ; I hope, however, while this may sustain me in the downward course of life, that I have still got something to press me onward even without a cane. I receive it, however, with thanks to the donors, and express a great degree of satisfaction at the relations which we hold with each other to-night. It is not necessary for me to say that my entire interest and feeling is with the Eclectic system of medicine. Dr. Smith—as he will be in a few weeks, no doubt—says it will help to sustain me in my onward course in the cause of Eclecticism, and I thank him for the sentiment. Cane or no cane, I expect to work on in the old cause, and I can assure you of my fidelity to the cause of medicine, my fidelity to this institution and to the faculty and Board of Trustees, and friends that we now have surrounding us. I have every reason to believe that the greatest object we have or can have, and our greatest ambition, will be realized. And I hope to introduce into the minds of those in the graduating class, and those who are to come into it this next session, that determination in the cause of medical reform, that disinterestedness of purpose that will carry them on successfully until they are as old as I am, if it should be God's providence to spare them that many years.

Upon the conclusion of his speech Prof. Newton was applauded, and retired from the platform, amid cheers and well-wishes for his living many years. Calls were made for Dr. Newton, Jr., Prof. Mortimore, Prof. Buchanan, and Prof. Strickland. These gentlemen responded in short and appropriate addresses, after which the company remained for the dancing and supper, which brought to a close one of the most pleasant meetings that has ever been attended by the friends of the college.

WE clip the following, as a summary of D. C. Robbins' paper on Quinine, from the *American Druggist Circular*. The text will be found in full in this and following number. Mr. R. is giving much attention to this subject. The house of McKisson, Robbins & Co. are now manufacturing quinine on a large scale, with many improvements not used by other manufacturers.

This paper is one worthy the careful examination and study of every medical man and pharmacist. It is the beginning of a forward move in this line of investigation.

NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

[*The Conversational Meeting held on the 21st of November last.*]

THE conversational proceedings of the College commenced with the reading of a paper, by Mr. D. C. Robbins, on *Quinine in Commerce*.

A history was given of quinine since 1820, with the market variations caused by the principal intervening circumstances, as the attempt of the Peruvian Government prior to 1850 to monopolize the sale of bark, and the tariff variations since 1832, when this article made its first appearance in the customs list of the country; it having been classed previous to this date as an unenumerated article under 5 per cent. revenue duty.

A list of all the various duties on bark and quinine since 1832, was given, and the opinion expressed that our present duties on all the products of cinchona bark, as 20 per cent. on sulphate and 45 per cent. on other salts of quinine, taking into consideration the demand for quinine, was very objectionable.

A statement of the process and the requirements for the manufacture of quinine was given, to show that our inability to cope with Europe was due to the fact that our navigation laws made the European market the best resort for the crude article. Besides, it was evident that other nations were in advance in the science of the cinchonas—quinology.

The ruling quotations for quinine in Europe appeared to prove that this knowledge is farthest in advance in Germany, next in France and in England.

The lecturer believed that the determination of the value of the bark, which was a very difficult matter, was as well understood in the United States as in any country, and that there was little doubt that our machinery and devices to save labor and expense were in advance of other nations.

A conservative tariff policy was advised, and that all duties upon these highly valuable medicaments be reduced to 10 per cent. ad valorem.

The discussion upon quinine in pharmacy was a very important one, and participated in by Mr. Charles Rice and others.

Tables were exhibited to show the solubility in ether, of the various quinines of commerce, fifteen in number; as also the extent to which several varieties could be combined with cinchonidia and make a clear solution with the ether test of U. S. P.

A table of densities of the various quinines was also exhibited, from which it appeared that an organic change took place in the crystallization of the salts of quinine, as the bulk of some varieties of the salts of quinine when finely powdered was double that of others; and this last fact, which had never been noticed in our journals, had a very important bearing upon excipients and pill masses.

Stenographic notes of the conversation were taken, and referred to a committee for revision.

REGISTERING PHYSICIANS.

THE *New York Times* contains a lengthy article on the registering of physicians by the new Board of Health. The law requires that the provisions of the act of the Legislature of 1874, to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of New York, require every practitioner of medicine and surgery, excepting licentiates or graduates of regularly chartered medical colleges or county medical societies, to have a certificate from the censors of said societies, setting forth that such censors have duly examined and found qualified to practice the person to whom it is issued. Such certificate must be recorded in a book kept for that purpose by the county clerk of each county in the State. The fine imposed upon all such as practise medicine or surgery without a certificate from a medical society, or a diploma legally obtained, is, for the first offence, not less than \$50 nor more than \$250, and for the second not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 and imprisonment for thirty days.

The report states that "young men are yearly turned out, by our medical colleges, who know nothing of botany, nothing of natural history, nothing of Latin, or very little, and less of Greek, nothing of mathematics, nothing of the sciences cognate with medicine; and, such being the case, quackery and malpractice largely recruit their ranks from this source. This cannot be corrected by any existing law, and it has its origin in a low and

constantly lowering standard of medical education in colleges granting diplomas entitling the graduate to practice."

This, if true, is indeed a lamentable state of things, and throws great discredit on the medical profession in the State. It was for the purpose of removing this odium, and to take away this allegation from medical colleges, that the trustees of the Eclectic Medical College of New York appointed Rev. Dr. Strickland Professor of Medical Literature and Forensic Medicine. The Doctor has, in connection with his lectures on Medical Jurisprudence, instructed the class in Latin and Greek, and proposes extending his teaching to collateral sciences. This departure, it is hoped, will be followed by other medical colleges, and thus the stigma involved in the above report will be removed.

THE report of Dr. Gray, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, shows that there have been admitted to the institution, during the year, 427 patients; 181 were discharged recovered and improved. Twenty-six of these, though unrecovered, were returned to their homes, having reached a condition of quiet in which they can reside with their families. Sixty persons were transferred to the Willard Asylum for chronic insane, and fifty-six were returned as chronic cases to county asylums, authorized by the State Board of Charities to care for such cases. There have been sixty-nine deaths during the year. The report of the treasurer shows that the current receipts have been sufficient to meet the current expenses of the year and leave a balance of \$10,286.93.

W. H. SCHIEFFELIN & CO.'S SOLUBLE PILLS AND GRANULES.

Dread of taking unpalatable medicines. "Pleasant" remedies apt to be so at the expense of medicinal matter, rendering therapeutic results uncertain.

Availability of Soluble Pills as a means of medication at all times and places, being in such multiplicity of variety and proportion—tasteless, because coated—combining all the skill of the pharmacist with the convenience of the physician for his own

dispensing, and ready to be instantly used in remote and country districts where skilled pharmacists are not available; the character of the coating more perfect than any other in its adaptability to the purpose, being soluble within thirty seconds, this solubility being a permanent characteristic; transparent, lessening liability to mistake by allowing view of the masses; pills small, owing to thin coat, yet swallowed without taste; greater accuracy obtained by using weighed doses than portioning by eye; being small, are portable and can be carried in sufficient quantity and variety in coat pocket for week's supply; saves delay in writing and compounding prescriptions; non-perishable because unchanged by time or atmospheric contact.

The reputation enjoyed by this House for the absolute purity of their medicines, and that integrity maintained during a long business career, are sufficient guarantees for the quality of their products.

As physicians cannot expect to cure disease unless they can *depend* upon the *purity* and *reliability* of the remedies they employ, more particularly if *prepared* or *compounded*, and as impurity injures the reputation of the physician by failing to secure desired therapeutic action, and may endanger the life of the patient, this convincing proof of reliability at once removes the greatest objection to the use of prepared medicines.

OUR JOURNAL will hereafter be issued monthly. This will enable us to extend its usefulness and influence. We cordially invite the co-operation of the entire Medical profession in this enterprise. We have received flattering letters from all our old contributors, and many from able writers new to the readers of the MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN.

From "The New Haven (Ct.) Union."

Miss Jennie Stanton's opinions on the subject:

"The rain did not permit a large audience at Loomis' Temple of Music, but the lecture delivered there by Miss Jennie V.

Stanton, of New York, on "How shall Women be Educated?" was quite interesting. The lady made a fine plea for the culture of woman in the useful, instead of in the merely artificial and ornamental. The fact that intelligent, refined men seek in marriage intelligent refined women is evidence of a demand for superior womanhood. There is no fear that intellectual cultivation will result in physical weakness or degeneracy; experience shows that civilized man, just in the degree of his civilization, is stronger and healthier than savage man, and is blessed with longer life. The object of a higher education for woman is to make her a more valuable member of society, and more capable to become a wife and mother. The future generation will be precisely such as the mother of the present may make it; like begets like; inferior women can only have inferior children; much depends on the fathers, it is true, but more on the mothers. Another reason for woman's higher education is that domestic harmony and tranquillity may be secured; there can only be strife and inharmony where there is great inequality between husband and wife.

The lecturer did not advocate such a course of instruction as is given girls and young ladies at most of the boarding-schools and female seminaries; she deplored "the cramming process," as causing too great a strain upon body and mind, without producing much practical result. The idea must be got rid of that learning is debased when it becomes useful, and ceases to be artificial and showy. The cultivation of women's heads will not make them less warm-hearted, less womanly; on the contrary, it will increase their capacity to love, and enable them to be womanly in a more feminine sense. In conclusion, the lecturer advocated the idea that women should engage in the practice of medicine. Nature had fitted her, through her tenderness, delicacy and sympathy, to be the physician, the healer, the restorer, as she had fitted man, through his courage and destructiveness, to be the warrior. As for the education of the sexes in medicine, in physiology and anatomy, there was no reason why the young man and the young woman should not be taught together. If the sexes cannot be educated together, it is to be questioned whether there is propriety in their *living* together.

Miss Stanton referred kindly to the Eclectic Medical College of New York City, and approved of its course of instruction to a class composed of ladies and gentlemen.

The press, generally, have spoken highly of this lecture, which has been repeated at different places.

ON MEDICAL REFORM.

HORACE GREELEY, at the Commencement Exercises of the New York Eclectic Medical College, February 16, 1867, said: "I do not appear as the advocate of any particular school of medicine, nor the champion of any special medical system or theory. I look upon the establishment of an Eclectic Medical College in this city as a protest against abuses and as an evidence of reform. It is a palpable expression of a desire for free thought. Resistance to orthodoxy, I think, is doing good in the world; the school that stands up in opposition to the action of two thousand years is an argument of courage and determination based on purpose and conviction. Such a school might meet opposition, persecution, perhaps—certainly intolerance. The men who were stoned to death in their day, and the stones used afterward to build their monuments, were men who initiated radical changes, instituted great good. I would ask the new Eclectic School to consider the matter of medical etiquette. I see no reason why I should not call on my neighbors or friends of the Allopathic, Homœopathic, or Eclectic Schools to advise for my child when it is sick. Yet the intolerance of existing professional rules is such that I cannot do so without risking a wrathful refusal. I sincerely hope the new Eclectic School will not countenance any such Middle Age folly, but that it will adopt a sensible, kindly, and manly rule of tolerance and professional good-fellowship in all such cases, no matter what school of practice may be followed. The spirit of Christian conciliation especially becomes one whose profession is to heal the sick and to prolong life. I think that the practitioners of different schools may consult together with much profit to each other. I hope that the graduates of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York will be ani-

mated with this kindly and charitable feeling toward all others practising their profession. I see no reason why forty or fifty rich or lucky physicians in New York should take the cream of practice here, and all of the influential positions, and all of the prominence, under arbitrary rules made by themselves, which exclude the great body of their professional co-laborers from all opportunity of competing with them on equal terms. I see no reason why hundreds of good physicians should not announce themselves in a modest card in the newspapers, in the various specialties of medicine or surgery in which they may believe themselves to excel. This would be a sensible thing to do certainly in any other business, and why not in medicine? Yet the intolerance of the rule-makers of old schools of medicine is such that they would crush or ostracize any of their humble followers were they to do so, notwithstanding they themselves are advertised in the most effective way in connection with their official and public positions. I wish the new school of medicine you represent, gentlemen, abundant success, and trust that you will found and build it up on the sound principles of the most enlightened liberality, and lay broad and deep the foundations of a true medical science and system of practice."

At the conclusion of Mr. Greeley's address, the President of the Faculty, Prof. Robert S. Newton, stated that the American Eclectic School had adopted a code of ethics which allowed consultations with any intelligent and properly accredited practitioner of any school of medicine, no matter how divergent their views or practice. He also said that the same code especially allowed the privilege of reasonable and proper advertising in the public journals.

BODIES WANTED FOR DISSECTION.

THE Faculty of the United States Medical College have found great difficulty in obtaining subjects for demonstrations in anatomy and dissection. They applied recently to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, asking that Board to furnish the college with subjects from the Morgue, or other public institutions, on the same terms as other medical colleges are supplied,

but the Commissioners refused to comply with the request. The college, yesterday, applied to Judge Barrett, at Supreme Court, Chambers, for an order to compel the Commissioners to furnish bodies to the institution. Assistant Corporation Counsel Dean opposed the motion in behalf of the Commissioners, urging that the college was not legally incorporated; that the petitioners should have been incorporated under the act of 1853, by the Regents of the University, and not under the general act of 1848. The court reserved its decision.—*From N. Y. Times, Jan'y 10, 1879.*

A COLLEGE WITHOUT "MATERIAL."

"The United States Medical College" seeks "subjects" from the Commissioners of Charities, which the latter refuse to supply, saying that the college is not legally incorporated by the Regents of the University of the State of New York. The college asked a mandamus from Judge Barrett yesterday. Decision was reserved.—*The World, Jan'y 10, 1879.*

[Since the above was put in type we have learned that Judge Barrett has denied the motion, with \$10 costs.—ED.]

THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

OVER thirty-one thousand deaths, carrying off about two per cent. of the population, occurred in Massachusetts last year; and as the climate and conditions of life in that commonwealth are in the main the same as those of all our older Northern States, we can get much valuable information by the study of the causes of those deaths.

Of the whole number, more than a third, or 11,170 of the deaths, were those of children under five years of age. Less than a tenth part of the total, or only 2,967, died between the ages of 20 and 30, and from 30 onward the deaths numbered 17,205, or something more than a half of the whole. During 1877 there were 41,850 births in the State, but during the same time 6,343 infants under one year were swept away by death. To each 1,000 living, the annual death rate under five years was over 61, and it did not rise even as high as half that until the

age of seventy was passed, when it reached 68, and then, of course, rapidly increased.

These figures, like the statistics of mortality everywhere, go to show that on the average very young lives are far more in danger than any others, except the very old. The green fruit falls to the ground because it is unable to withstand the blasts or is blighted, and the old fruit drops because it is overripe.

Seventy per cent. of the deaths were caused by twenty different diseases; but the greatest fatality followed the inroads of those old enemies of life, consumption, diphtheria, pneumonia, cholera infantum, old age, and heart disease. The rest of the twenty causes, arranged in the order of their destructiveness, were paralysis, typhoid fever, cancer, dysentery, convulsions, croup, apoplexy, scarlatina, tubercular meningitis, bronchitis, enteritis, diarrhoea, Bright's disease, and drowning. Consumption was the great cause of death, as it has been in our climate within the memory of man. More than a sixth of the whole number of deaths for the year were due to that disease. In every county of the State it stood first among the causes of mortality. Diphtheria carried off less than half as many victims, though it was the next most prolific cause of death; and pneumonia, cholera infantum, and heart disease together, though they were all so destructive, were responsible for only about as many deaths as consumption alone.

It is interesting to observe that the deaths from old age—1,586, or about one-twentieth of the whole—stood next in number to those from consumption in three of the Massachusetts counties, and those all the less densely populated seacoast counties—Barnstable, which includes Cape Cod, Dukes, and Nantucket, comprising the islands of those names, and Plymouth, of national fame. In the hill counties of Berkshire and Franklin the order was, first, consumption; second, diphtheria; third, old age; and first, consumption; second pneumonia; third, old age, respectively.

The five causes which were the most destructive of life at different ages in Massachusetts, in 1877, were:

Under five years.—First, cholera infantum; second, diphtheria; third, pneumonia; fourth, convulsions; fifth, croup.

From 5 to 10.—First, diphtheria; second, scarlatina; third, croup; fourth, typhoid fever; fifth, pneumonia.

From 10 to 14.—First, diphtheria; second, consumption; third, typhoid fever; fourth, heart disease; fifth, drowning.

From 15 to 19.—First, consumption; second, typhoid fever; third, diphtheria; fourth, pneumonia; fifth, heart disease.

From 20 to 29.—First, consumption; second, typhoid fever; third, pneumonia; fourth, heart disease; fifth, Bright's disease.

From 30 to 39.—First, consumption; second, heart disease; third, pneumonia; fourth, typhoid fever; fifth, childbirth.

From 40 to 49.—First, consumption; second, heart disease; third, pneumonia; fourth, cancer; fifth, typhoid fever.

From 50 to 59.—First, consumption; second, heart disease; third, pneumonia; fourth, cancer; fifth, paralysis.

From 60 to 69.—First, consumption; second, heart disease; third, pneumonia; fourth, paralysis; fifth, cancer.

From 70 to 79.—First, old age; second, paralysis; third, heart disease; fourth, pneumonia; fifth, consumption.

80 and over.—First, old age; second, paralysis; third, pneumonia; fourth, heart diseases; fifth apoplexy.

The Massachusetts death statistics for twenty years exhibit the progressive fatality of diseases of the central nervous system—apoplexy, paralysis, insanity, and unspecified brain diseases. This steady increase is only another proof of the great wear and tear on the nervous system of our modern life. The mortality from apoplexy is much greater in proportion among males than females, and sixty-three per cent. of the deaths from it occurred at ages above sixty, while seventy-seven per cent. of those from paralysis, a related disease, were of persons above that age. Nearly a third of the mortality from apoplexy fell to Suffolk County, the seat of Boston. That terrible disease, cancer, destroyed 646 lives in 1877, seventy-three per cent. of the deaths being of females, and the ages at which death occurred being chiefly between fifty and seventy. Consumption is most fatal to females, and in the decade of life between 20 and 30 years. Heart diseases and Bright's disease of the kidneys show a remarkable increase in Massachusetts, as elsewhere, during the

last ten years; but it is probable that this increase is only apparent, many deaths which formerly would have been registered as due to dropsy being now correctly ascribed to diseased conditions of which dropsy is a symptom only.—*N. Y. Sun*, November 18, 1878.

MR. LOCKYER'S "DISCOVERY."

To the Editor of the Herald :

SIR:—I notice in the *Herald*, of the 7th inst., a statement that a discovery of the greatest importance, by Mr. Norman Lockyer, the English astronomer, has been made, "that all the sixty-six or more bodies which are now recognized by chemists as elements, are in reality compounds; and, further, that they are all resolvable into hydrogen!!"

I am induced to draw the attention of the astronomer, and scientists in general, to some other important facts, arrived at by a process quite different to theirs, and hitherto unnoticed by them, that will be found to be results of, or connected with, such discovery, *i. e.* :

1st. That the compounds of those sixty-six bodies consist of the matter composing them, with their inherent magnetic force, through which they receive their visible form, and by which they are again dissolved, and thus converted into their invisible or original gaseous *elements*.

2d. That those sixty-six bodies are of two distinct classes. One of these—the mineral—is, in its nature, cold and combustible, and, as he says, "resolvable into hydrogen;" the opposite class—which is in its nature warm—is resolvable into oxygen.

3d. That those two classes of matter are THE TWO PRIMARY ELEMENTS.

4th. That their inherent force, when in contact, induces their spontaneous reciprocal action, thereby exhibiting a variety of phenomena, such as the forming and dissolving processes, or what is commonly called CHEMICAL ACTION.

Allow me to say, it is over twenty years since I noticed the principle which is now given as "an important discovery of the

astronomer." Should he or other scientists be inclined to investigate the truth of those consequent results which I cite, I would be pleased to demonstrate or explain practically.

The argument of the above theory can be found in the "origin of creation," published by Longmans, Green & Co., London, and by the authors in Halifax, N. S., in 1874.

THOS. R. FRASER, M.D.

HALIFAX, Dec. 9, 1878.

SUBSCRIBE.

Every person who wishes to take the "MEDICAL ECLECTIC" for 1879, must remit the \$1.50 and get a Monthly Journal.

MISS J. V. STANTON, M.D., will deliver her lecture on "Women" at the College Parlors, Thursday, January the 16th, 1879, at 8 o'clock P.M.

THE PRESENT SESSION of the College will close about the first of March, 1879. The meeting of the Alumni will be held immediately after, and it is hoped all will attend. The February number will contain the full notice of the time and arrangements for holding the same.

PURE WINES.

We feel gratified in calling attention to our caption. This is a want long felt, and to invalids is an essential, for the majority of wines sold through dealers are unfit for medicinal purposes. Mr. L. Reich, 13 W. 11th Street, New York City, imports the purest and best of wines, especially for medicinal use, which he supplies directly to the profession, thus insuring purity. These wines have been recommended for their medicinal action and purity by all the leading physicians in this city. Personally we have observed their action in cases of severe impairment of the nervous system, and found them to produce all the desired effect. The following compose the leading wines in his list: Tokayer Ausbruch, vintage of 1866; Tokayer Maslaas, vintage of 1866; Somlyai Impl., vintage of 1868; Budai Impl., vintage of 1868.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC. An Historic Study. By C. EDWARDS LESTER. Author of the *Glory and Shame of England*, etc. The American News Co., N. Y.

THIS is a very neatly got up pamphlet of 104 pp. octavo. It contains a finely engraved likeness of President Diaz and a large, well-executed map of Mexico and its northern boundaries, including the Indian Territory and the southern portions of Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and all of Texas, engraved expressly for the work. Its contents embrace Mexico under Spain—from Cortez to Hidalgo, a period of 300 years; the struggle for political independence; proclamation of the Republic, and the adoption of the constitution of 1824; the establishment and vindication of the constitution; the French invasion, embracing Maximilian's ephemeral empire; re-establishment of the Republic; election and administration of General Diaz; the material resources of Mexico, and our relations with the Mexican Republic. This last chapter is full of interest at the present time, and is commended to all who take an interest in Mexican affairs, especially the recent troubles on our border. The author points out very clearly the cause of those border feuds, and suggests a feasible plan of relief.

THE OBSTETRIC GAZETTE. A Monthly Journal, devoted to Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children. EDWARD B. STEVENS, A.M., M.D., Editor, Cincinnati. Terms, \$3.00 annually, in advance. Office, S. E. cor. Sixth and Elm Streets.

THIS is a new periodical, and we are glad to place it on our list of exchanges. Its table of contents contains articles of interest to the profession at large, and we commend it to the same.

THE AMERICAN BOOKSELLER. Devoted to the interests of Book, Stationary, News, and Music Trades. With it is incorporated the American Bookseller's Guide and The Index, published semi-monthly. American News Co., Chambers St., New York.

BEFORE the Commissioners of Patents. In interference *Ackerman v. Archer*. Manure Bales. An Appeal to the Board of Managers. Argument in behalf of Appellee, Bernard Ackerman. By Thomas D. Stetson, att'y for Ackerman, Murphy & Son, Fulton St., N. Y.

EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. With prices of publications and postage payable by bankers' drafts, P. O. orders or greenbacks. B. F. Stevens, American library and literary agent, 4 Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, London, England.

AMERICAN COLLEGE DIRECTORY AND UNIVERSAL CATALOGUE. From Johnson's Commercial College, St. Louis. This Catalogue of 110 pp., contains a list of the Medical Colleges of every name and grade in the U. S., also a list of Female Seminaries, Business Colleges, Law Schools, Academies and Schools, and as such is valuable as a book of reference.

JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, June, 1878. Dr. W. D. Turner, Rec. Sec. It has an interesting table of contents. Among others two papers on yellow fever, a subject which has recently occupied a large space in the public mind.

A CLASSIFIED LIST OF WORKS ON MEDICINE AND SURGERY AND COLLATERAL SCIENCES. Pub. by Lindsay & Blakiston, Phila. All books sent post-free on receipt of price.

REMARKS ON THE Relative Value of the Cinchona Alkaloids.

The many changes in the value of Quinine during the last few years have brought the lesser Alkaloids, formerly but little regarded, into more extensive use. This is especially the case with Cinchonidia Sulph., for, while Quinidia is supposed to represent more nearly the therapeutical value of Quinia, its sale has been far less than that of Cinchonidia, perhaps owing to its higher price, and its having been less prominently placed before the Profession.

Sulphate of Cinchonidia has been steadily rising in the estimation of physicians, and, during the past year, its use has far exceeded that of any of the lesser alkaloids, and is by many practitioners regarded as equal in effects to Sulphate of Quinia. The Madras experiments, it will be remembered, gave Quinidia ninety-nine and four-tenths; Quinia, ninety-nine and three-tenths; Cinchonidia, ninety-nine, and Cinchonina, ninety-seven and seven-tenths, in each one hundred cases treated.

Decolorization and excessive crystallization of Sulphate Quinine and other Alkaloidal salts are thought to injure their medicinal value, and many practitioners, some of whom stand at the head of the profession, advocate the use of the *unbleached* salts, which are considered more readily assimilable. In many of our public institutions the combined alkaloids, without having undergone the process of bleaching, have been used, the Cinchonina alone being separated as of less value; this product, usually known as "Hospital Quinine," has been prescribed for many years, with the best results, in preference to the bleached Sulphate of Quinine, and there is little doubt but that the two products are equal in therapeutical value as regards tonic and anti-periodic effects.

For these reasons we have been induced to offer pills of "Hospital Quinine," that the Profession may have an opportunity of proving the value of the opinions given above, and we will be happy to aid them by furnishing samples free of charge.

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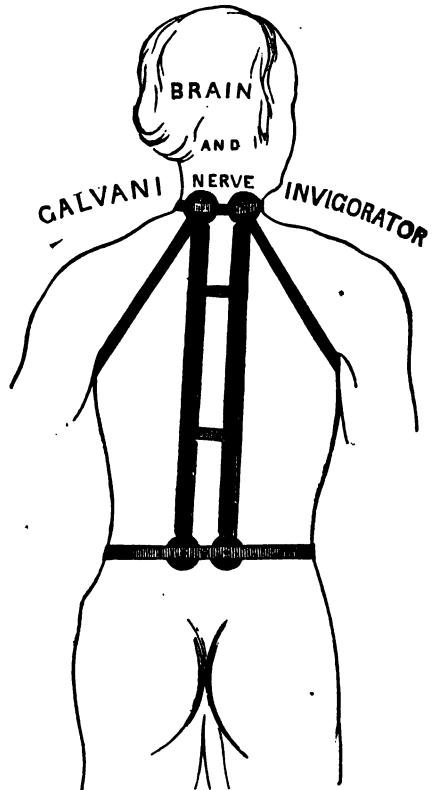
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[Jan., 1878, &c.]

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GOUT.

[DR. HORATIO C. WOOD, *of Philadelphia, Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Pennsylvania. From editorial in the Medical Times of July 20, 1878.*]

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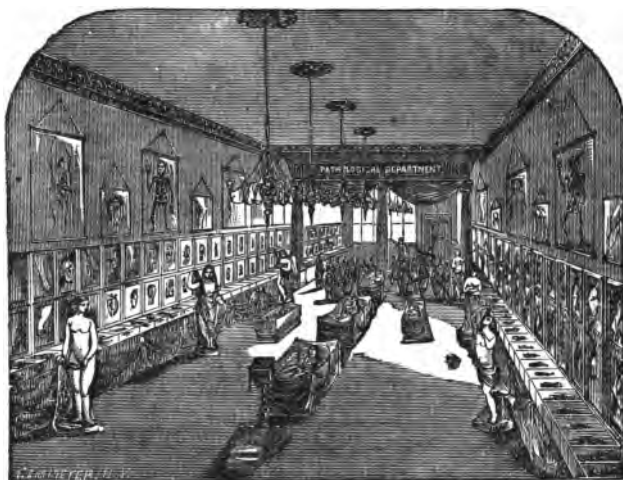
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